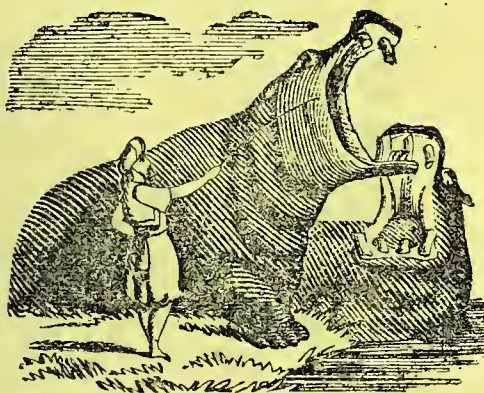


A FULL AND INTERESTING ACCOUNT
OF THE GREAT
HIPPOPOTAMUS,
OR
RIVER HORSE:
FROM THE WHITE NILE.
BY A DISTINGUISHED ZOOLOGIST.

TOGETHER WITH A
LARGE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE HABITS
AND HISTORY OF THIS WONDERFUL MONSTER,
COLLATED FROM A VARIETY OF
SOURCES.



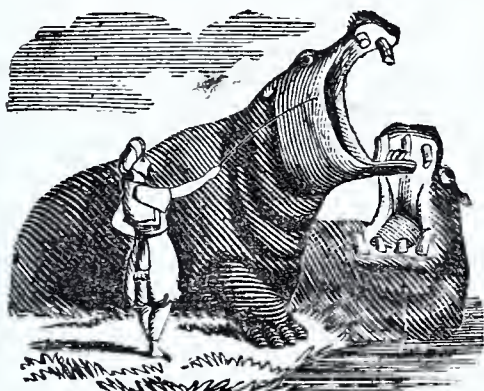
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"IN THE EARTH THERE IS NOT HIS LIKE."—*Job, Chap. XL.*  
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NEW YORK:
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1863

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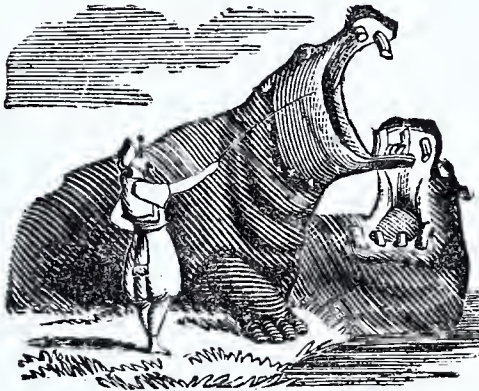
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NEW YORK:
STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTER

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A SHORT MEMOIR OF ALI, THE EGYPTIAN, AND A
SUCCINCT ACCOUNT OF THE CAPTURE OF THE
HIPPOPOTAMUS.



ALI, the keeper of Bucheet, the Hippopotamus now on exhibition in the United States, is an Egyptian by birth, having first seen the light on an island in the River Nile, near Cairo, called Pontegera. He is thirty-one years of age, and during the greater part of his life followed the profession of a boatman on the Nile, an occupation requiring much dexterity, strength and endurance. From the year 1853, up to the time of his departure for England, he was in the employ of H. B. Majesty's Consul, for the Loudan, John Petherick, Esq.; and during these years was almost constantly engaged with his employer in exploring the unknown regions of Central Africa, with a view of collecting general information in regard to the country, and studying the habits of the Hippopotami, with which those regions abound.

It had long been the cherished object of Mr. Petherick to capture one of these monsters for the purpose of presenting it to the British Zoological Society, but it was not until the

year 1858, that his wish was gratified. In that year he fitted out a larger expedition than ever before. He caused to be constructed a large boat especially adapted to the purpose, and took with him a party of six hundred men and officers.

His starting point was Khartoum, a town of 60,000 inhabitants, the capital of seven provinces, dependent on Egypt, called the Loudan, between 13 and 20 deg. N. lat., and 27 to 36 deg. E. long., or perhaps better explained by the whole of that district, between the second cataract, at Wadi Halfa, to the territories of the naked Negro, in 13 deg. North lat., whilst its breadth extends from the borders of Darfour on the west, to the shores of the Red Sea and Abyssinia on the east.

Leaving Khartoum, and navigating the White Nile, to between the 9th and 10th deg. of North lat. a narrow channel, for the most part overgrown with reeds, which by former Nile travelers had been considered unnavigable, attracted his attention, and pursuing it, not without difficulty, and finding a passage through various narrow openings, in a forest of high reeds he discovered this to be the connection between a large lake and the Nile, of which it is one of the most important feeders hitherto known.

This lake, according to the time it occupied him to sail from one end to the other, six days and nights, with every allowance for the windings of the open passages, through dense vegetation, with which it is nearly covered, he considers to be about 180 miles long, and some 60 miles broad.

Its waters ornament several promontories and islands, more or less wooded by the acacia, mimosa and sycamore, but, little frequented by man, literally are swarmed by crocodiles and hippopotami, the latter in particular having made many rude attempts to dispute the passage over their hither to secluded home, by attacking his boat, battering-ram fashion, both under and on the surface of the water, and on one occasion to the surprise and horror of all on board, a huge beast suddenly raising half its great carcase, with an agility hardly to be expected, out of the water, close under the lar-

board bow, carried off his unfortunate cook from the gunwale on which, his back to the water, he was sitting; one bite, of his powerful jaws severed his body in two at the waist.

It was here, whilst returning in the month of April, in the year 1858, from the regions of the equator, he founded an establishment of twenty-five armed men, whom he brought with him, a part of a numerous escort from Khartoum, whilst the lake, according to information received from the negroes of the Raik tribe, inhabited its southern confines, from its continued drainage into the Nile, after a more than usually dry season, was much lower than it had been known for many years, that the "look out" at the mast head, almost frantic with excitement, sung out, "a young hippopotamus," and pointing to the reeds within a few yards of which they were sailing, a dozen sailors, among whom was Ali, leaped into the water, and getting instantly to the shore, discovered the mother of the baby monster quietly feeding a short distance off, and who, on their approach, uttered a frightful bellow, and instantly made for the river, accompanied by her calf. Ali, with a few others, placed themselves instantly between the mother and her young, and as the rest of the men had now come on shore also, a volley from nearly fifty muskets was poured into the immense beast without any effect. She still ran for the water, while the calf following its natural instinct continued to move in the same direction, in spite of all their efforts, both gained the river in the course of a very short time, and the calf would certainly have made its escape but for the courage and presence of mind exhibited by Ali, who, despite all danger, plunged into the river and dexterously managed to envelop the calf in a blanket, so as to prevent him slipping from his hands, and grasping him firmly, finally brought him in triumph to the shore, amid the exultant plaudits of his companions.

The long sought for prize was at once taken on board the vessel, and preparations were immediately made for the return of the expedition to Cairo, which place was reached in safety. During the voyage the young monster was placed

in the sole charge of Ali, who fed it on new milk, mush and dates.

The affection exhibited by the mother on the loss of her young, was touching in the extreme. For three days she persistently followed the boat, uttering the most piteous cries. Every means were taken to induce her to turn back and give up the pursuit in vain; at last on the afternoon of the third day a soldier managed to put a musket ball in her head, just above and between her eyes, which proved fatal, and the poor beast rolled over dead.

On the arrival of the expedition in Cairo, Mr. Petherick caused a large tank to be dug in his garden, and there Bucheet—or Lucky Dog—an appellation won for him by the kind attention of Ali—thrived apace, and nearly denuded all the surrounding country of milk, owing to the enormous quantities of that fluid he consumed. In the meantime Abbas Pasha, the Viceroy of Egypt, had been graciously pleased to send to England the Hippopotamus now on exhibition in the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, London, as a present to the Queen, consequently, Mr. Petherick came to the conclusion to transport his to England, and present him to the Royal Zoological Society. On his arrival there, however, he found the Queen had been pleased to donate her unwieldly present to the Society, and meeting Mr. G. C. Quick, of New York, who was then in London, in search of novelties for exhibition in America, negotiations were at once commenced, by which Mr. Quick became the purchaser at a cost of \$30,000, a large sum, but one which did not cover half the expense of his capture.

Mr. Quick started at once with his costly purchase for America, accompanied by Ali, between whom and the now huge brute, the warmest attachment had sprung up.

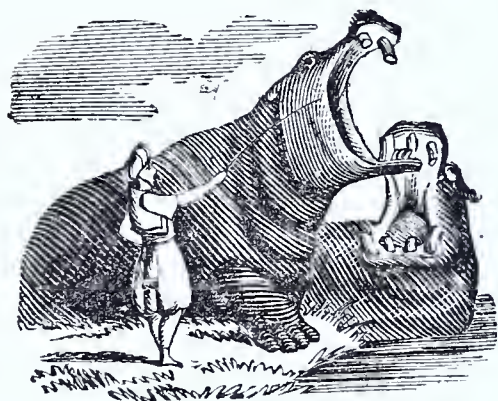
In entering into this speculation, Mr. Quick felt assured of the patronage of the intelligent and thinking portion of the American community, and he has not been disappointed. Wherever the Hippopotamus has been announced, thousands upon thousands have flocked to view the wonderful

amphibious monster; to gaze upon his vast proportions, and witness his gambols in his huge tank where he plunges about with infinite gusto and self-satisfaction.

Ali still attends him, and his every look and gesture is obeyed by his unwieldy charge with the greatest alacrity.

Such another opportunity for beholding this marvel of animal creation may never again occur, as in all human probability, this will be the last Hipopotamus brought to this country, as Mr. Petherick declared that the expense of bringing the animal over cost double the amount he had received for it. This our readers will the more readily credit after perusing the following pages.

THE HIPPOPOTAMUS.



HIPPOPOTAMUS is the Roman name for the River Horse, and has been retained by modern zoologists as the generic appellation of the animals of that Pachydermatous form. Its dental formula is as follows :

INCISORS, $\frac{4}{4}$; CANINES, $\frac{1}{1}-\frac{1}{1}$; MOLARS, $\frac{7}{6}-\frac{7}{6}=38$.

CUVIER further characterizes the animal generically as having on all its feet, four toes, which are nearly equal, and terminated by small hoofs (*sabots*), an immensely massive body, destitute of hair, very short legs, a belly trailing upon the ground, an enormous head, terminated by a large tumid muzzle, which encloses their great anterior teeth, a short tail, and small eyes and ears. Their stomach is divided into many compartments. They live in rivers, on roots and other vegetable substances, and are ferocious and stupid. The anatomy of these creatures is in accordance with their bulk and unwieldiness. The skeleton of the Hippopotamus approaches that of the ox and the hog; but it presents differences which distinguish it from any other animal. The principle upon which the jaws and teeth are constructed,

seems to be a principle for rudely tearing and dividing, but not communuting the hard and tough vegetables which form the staple food of the animal.

The stomach of a full grown Hippopotamus is said to be capable of containing from five to six bushels, and the large intestine is of a size commensurate with such a capacity—for it is stated to be eight inches in diameter.

Its time of feeding, when wild, is principally in the night; and these enormous animals, when in the vicinity of cultivated lands, do incalculable damage, not only from the vast quantity they actually consume, but what they spoil and lay waste by their crushing bulk.

HASSELQUIST, "on the authority of a credible person who lived twelve years in Egypt," states: 1st. That the hide of a full grown Hippopotamus is a load for a camel. 2d. That the River Horse is the inveterate enemy of the crocodile, and kills it whenever he meets it. 3d. That he never appears below the cataracts in Egypt. The Egyptians, he adds, very seldom bring the hide of it to Cairo; and he continues: It is impossible to bring thither the living animal. 4th. The River Horse does much damage to the Egyptians in those places he frequents, and they have a curious manner of freeing themselves from him. They remark the place he frequents, and leave there a large quantity of peas. When the beast comes on shore hungry and voracious, he falls to eating what is nearest to him, and filling his belly with the peas, they occasion an insupportable thirst: he then returns immediately to the river and drinks upon the peas large draughts of water, which causing the peas to swell—they burst his stomach, and so cause his death. 5th. The oftener the River Horse comes on shore, the more hopes the Egyptians have of a sudden rise in the Nile.

HERODITUS, (B. C. 400,) the father of history, speaks of the Hippopotamus, and says: "Hippopotami are held sacred in the nome of Papremis, but they are not held sacred by the rest of the Egyptians. Their nature and form are these: The animal is four footed, bisulcated, with hoofs like those of an ox, a flat nose, a horse's mane, prominent teeth, and the tail and voice

of a horse. In size it is as large as the greatest ox. The skin is so thick that when dried the shafts of darts are made from it."

ARISTOTLE describes him very incorrectly, and PLINY says of it (Book VIII., 25): "Major allitudine in eodum Nilo belna Hippopotamus editur," and gives very much the same description of him as Aristotle, without regarding DIODERUS, who comes much nearer the truth (book 1.) in his description. Pliny also, in book VIII., 26, speaks of M. Scaurus as being the first who had shown the Hippopotamus, together with five crocodiles from the river Nile, at Rome during his *Ædilship*; finishing the account, however, by making the former animal a master in one department in the art of healing, in consequence of his habit of letting blood by pressing the vein of his leg against some very sharp stake when his obesity requires relief.*

We know, moreover, that the Emperor Augustus exhibited one of these animals on the occasion of his triumph over Cleopatra (Dion, book L.). Under the later Emperors a considerable number of Hippopotami were introduced into the Roman shows. Thus Antonius exhibited some, with crocodiles, tigers, and other animals. Commodus showed five on one occasion, and killed some of them with his own hand. Heliogabalus and the third Gordian also exhibited Hippopotami. These demands seem to have produced their effect, for, according to Marcellinus Ammianus (book XXII, 15), and others, the race of Hippopotami had disappeared from Egypt since the time of the Emperor Julian. Favorable circumstances, however, must have operated to restore it, as we collect from the account of Zerenghi, above alluded to. Sonnine (*Travels in Upper and Lower Egypt*) says from the terror which they inspired among the natives, they

* The Reverend Father Joano Dos Santos, in a history of Eastern Ethiopia, written in the Portuguese language, and published in Paris in 1684, observes the same peculiarity, and remarks (chap. 14): "The animal is naturally of a sickly constitution and subject to gouty pains, which it cures by scratching its stomach with the left foot; and it has further been noticed, when it wishes to effect a perfect cure, that it falls on the horn of the hoof of the left foot; this, entering the stomach, appeases and terminates the pain. Hence the Caffres and Moors of this country make use of the hoof of this animal as a remedy for the gout."

were generally looked upon as the symbol of Typhon, that giant who had spread death and destruction among the Deities which were worshiped in that quarter. "They were," he adds, "of course, the emblem of mischance and of cruelty, and the particular worship of them at Papremis must have been practised solely with the view of appeasing or averting their rage."

We have vague accounts of the exhibition of the Hippopotamus in Constantinople, as late as the year 1689, but it is not probable that any have been seen in Europe since the days of the Emperor Julian.

We now come to an interesting period in the history of the Hippopotamus: Its arrival in Europe in modern times, and its appearance for the first time within the historical period of Great Britain. On the 11th of September, 1849, Mr. Mitchell communicated to the Zoological Society, at its evening meeting, the fact that a live Hippopotamus had been secured for the Gardens in Regent's Park. He then read the following extract, from a letter addressed to him by the Honorable C. A. Murray dated Cairo, Nov. 16th, 1849 :

"It is with the greatest satisfaction that I communicate to you the intelligence that I have succeeded in obtaining for the Society a live Hippopotamus. It is now in a yard at the back of my house, and apparently in perfect health; you cannot be more anxious than I am that I may be able to keep it through the winter, and send it to you in the spring. It is only five or six months old, and still lives entirely on milk. I think a fresh importation of cows will be necessary in Cairo, as our little monster takes about thirty quarts of milk daily for his share already. H. H. Abbas Pasha has been most liberal in having the animal brought here at his own expense, from the White Nile. A Lieutenant and a party of Nubian soldiers formed his escort; a boat was built on purpose for him, and the Viceroy sent him to my house in charge of the first officer of his palace. I may also mention that by his Highness orders another officer, with a party of soldiers, is still out on the White Nile, charged with the duty of securing a young female for us, so that I am not without hope of sending you the pair together"

The animal referred to in the above letter, arrived in England on the 25th of May, 1850.

Since the days of the Imperial exhibitions in the circus at Rome, no living Hippopotamus has been imported into Europe, except the young male which the Society now possesses, and the one now on exhibition in the Museum [1861]. The one now here is the only one, which will in all probability, be the sole specimen exhibited in America, on account of the difficulty and expense attending their capture and transportation. The difficulties of obtaining such an animal may be conjectured from the fact, that after the Viceroy of Egypt had presented one to the Society, it became necessary for his Royal Highness to dispatch an expedition to the Upper Nile, for the purpose of making the capture, and that success was only achieved after two thousand miles of the river had been ascended. In the year 1849, the chief huntsman of the party in searching the reedy margin of an island in the White Nile, called Obaysch, at last discovered a little Hippopotamus calf, which he conjectured had been born about two days. It was so small that, in his delight at having accomplished the Pasha's orders, he seized it in his arms and would have carried it to the boat which waited for him, had not the slimy exudation, which is lavishly poured forth from innumerable pores in the skin, rendered it so slippery that he was entirely unable to retain it in his grasp. The animal having thus slipped from his hand, almost escaped into the Nile, where his mother, doubtless, lay close at hand. The hunter, however, with the presence of mind which characterizes the true sportsman, seized his spear, and with the short side-hook which has been in fashion in Egypt for three thousand years or more, he succeeded in arresting the headlong plunge of his prize, without inflicting greater injury upon him than a skin wound, which is marked by the scar upon his ribs to this day. He has obtained his full growth, and now weighs over four tons, or nearly nine thousand pounds.

The word Hippopotamus is not mentioned in the Holy Scriptures, but Behemoth, named in Job (chap. XL.), is now generally supposed to be that animal:

15 Ver.—Behold now Behemoth, which I made with thee, he eateth grass as an ox.

16. Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly.

17. He moves his tail like a cedar; the sinews of his stones are wrapped together.

18. His bones are as strong pieces of brass; his bones are like bars of iron.

19. He is the chief of the ways of God; he that made him can make his sword approach unto him.

20. Surely the mountains bring him forth food, where all the beasts of the field play.

21. He lieth under the shady trees, in the covert of the reeds and fens.

22. The shady trees cover him with their shadow; the willows of the brook compass him about.

23. Behold he drinketh up a river, and hasteth not; he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan in his mouth.

24. He taketh it with his eyes, his nose pierceth through snares.

Again in chapter XLI, the following reference is made to him:—

15. His scales are his pride, shut up together as with a close seal.

16. One is so near to another that no air can come between them.

17. They are joined one to another, they stick together that they cannot be sundered.

27. He esteemeth iron as straw, and brass as rotten wood.

30. Sharp stones are under him; he spreadeth sharp pointed things upon the mire.

31. He maketh the deep to boil like a pot; he maketh the sea like a pot of ointment.

32. Upon the earth there is not his like, who is made without fear.

The word Behemoth is a very remarkable one; it is plural, and yet denotes one animal, whereas the singular of the same word is a noun of multitude, properly rendered by cattle or beasts. The plural form is applied to one animal to express its pre-eminence; what animal is intended, has caused much discussion. All the alterations which have been suggested are limited to the animals belonging to Cuvier's class. *Pachadermanta*, thick-skinned. To this class equally belong the elephant,

the Hippopotamus, and some extinct species of enormous animals, as the mastadon, mammoth, and others. The determination in favor of the elephant has found some distinguished advocates, but if that remarkable animal had been intended, we should have scarcely failed in so precise a description, to recognize some reference to its more peculiar characteristics—its proboscis, its tusks, its docility, and its sagacity. It is possible that the creature here alluded to is extinct, but certainly the description agrees remarkably well with the Hippopotamus, and still more so in the original than in our translation. The Jews have a curious and absurd notion on the subject. They hold that Behemoth is a large animal that has existed since the creation, and which is reserved to be fattened for a feast, to be enjoyed by pious Jews in the days of the Messiah. "Every day he eats up all the grass of a thousand hills, and at each draught swallows as much water as the Jordan yields in the course of six months." Such is, or has been their opinion.

"He eateth grass as an ox." This seems to have been considered and noticed as something remarkable; and it certainly is so in the case of Hippopotamus, which, being an inhabitant of the water, still eats the produce of the land. The last verse is, in our translation, very obscure, but that of BOOTHROYD, agrees very well with an amphibious animal, such as the River Horse:

"Lo, should a river overflow, he hasteneth not;
He is secure, though Jordan rushed to his mouth."

The uses of the Hippopotamus to man are certainly not many, but when we look at the enormous, ripping, chisel-like canines of the lower jaw, and the lower incisors, formed for uprooting, we cannot but think that such an animal must be an active agent in clearing rivers from the greater water plants, which might in time, if left undisturbed, go far to convert the running stream into a sluggish swamp. With regard to minor details, the flesh of this *Wasser ochs* is much esteemed as an article of food. In the first catalogue of the African Museum we read that it is much in request, both among

the natives and the colonists, and that the epicures of Cape Town do not disdain to use their influence with the country farmers to obtain a preference in the matter of a Sea Cow's *spec*, as the fat which lies immediately under the skin is called when salted and dried. Nor are the whips which are made of the skin of the hippopotami of the Nile, thought lightly of in the neighboring countries. They are said to be made by cutting the fresh skin into angular strips, some five or six feet in length. One extremity of the strip is pointed, and it gradually widens till the breadth at the opposite extremity is equal to the intended circumference of the bulk of the whip. The strip is then rolled up so as to form a sort of conical pipe, is firmly tied to keep it in place, and then dried in the sun. When all is finished, a light and elastic whip is produced. But there is no part of the Hippopotamus in more request than the great canine teeth, the ivory of which is so much valued by dentists in the manufacture of artificial teeth. No other ivory keeps its color equally well;* and these canine teeth are imported in great numbers to this country and England, for this purpose, and sell at a high price.

From the closeness of the ivory and the weight of the tooth, a portion of which only is available for the artificial purpose above named, is heavy in proportion to its bulk, and the article is worth about eight dollars per pound.

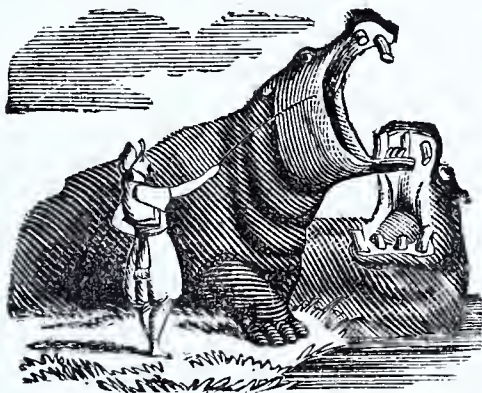
Remains of the Hippopotamus have been found in some parts of Gloucestershire, and teeth have been dug up in a field in a parish near Worcester. Specimens and fossil remains have also been collected in brick-fields near the river Thames, twenty-five feet above the low water of that river. These, and other phenomena, concur in establishing the truth that such animals, though now tropical, were formerly inhabitants of regions in higher latitudes. Throughout northern Europe, as well as North American Siberia, evidences of

* PAUSANIAS (VIII, 46) mentions the statue of Diodymene, whose face was formed of these teeth instead of the elephant's ivory.

the existence of this creature are frequently being developed. Remains of the extinct animal have been found at Kent's Hole, Toquay, and Durdham Common, England. No remains however, have ever been found in any part of Asia. We have no evidence of the Hippopotamus having existed upon our planet anterior to the pliocene division of the tertiary period.

From specimens collected in the course of excavating in the antediluvian forests of Yorkshire, England, it is demonstrated that there was a long succession of years during which the Elephant, the Rhinoceros, and Hippopotamus, had been the prey of the Hyenas, which, like themselves, inhabited England in the period immediately preceding the formation of the deluvial gravel. The ancient, extinct species however, seem to have been confined to the Eastern hemisphere.

THE HIPPOPOTAMUS IN HIS NEW BATH.



From the "Illustrated London News."

Twelve months ago we gave our first sketch of this illustrious stranger, who not only took the town by storm, but achieved a reputation for himself and the Zoological Society, which has reached to the most remote nooks of the civilized world. Fifteen hundred years had passed since an animal of this remarkable form had been seen in Europe; and no one can guess how many more might have rolled away without producing one, if the Viceroy of Egypt had not been induced to assist the Society by his ardent desire to contribute towards the advancement of science in all its bearings. More than one European power has possessions in Africa where this almost fabulous animal yet lingers; but up to the time of Mr. Murray's first suggestion to the Viceroy, no serious steps had ever been taken by any of these governments to present the physiologists and zoologists of Europe an opportunity of studying, or even of forming a correct idea of the actual habits of an animal which possesses a degree of archæological and physiological interest entirely unsurpassed by any other. And here a very singular reflection arises. A self-supporting Society, subject, consequently, to every possible fluctuation to which bad management or the caprice of the public taste can give rise, has not only succeeded in raising itself to the

character of a truly national institution, but has succeeded in effecting much more than the cognate institutions of other countries, supported by their respective governments. The annual statements of accounts published by the Zoological Society exhibit the almost incomprehensible fact, that between the time of its foundation and the 31st of December, 1859, a period of only twenty-two years, there has been paid to the government of this country a sum exceeding £20,000, on account of rent, rates and taxes. We believe that this fact, if it could be brought to the knowledge of the thousands of foreign visitors who daily repair to the Gardens, would appear to them infinitely more wonderful than even the collection itself. Such, however, is the self-relying character of the Anglo-Saxon race, that its undertakings seem to flourish most when most left to their own resources, and most independent of the trammels of official machinery.

It is a most gratifying and instructive point, which will be obvious to every observer, however careless, that many of the most valuable animals in possession of the Society are the gift of her Majesty the Queen, who has invariably given to this Society her steady and most gracious support, and who has thus emphatically signified her approbation of the gradual progress of the institution towards its present successful condition. The example which her Majesty has afforded has been very extensively emulated by other Sovereigns; and it is gratifying to notice, in the Reports of the Society, that the Governors of our Colonies, in their individual capacity, native princes of India, and many individuals of less exalted degree in almost every country in the world, are springing forward to assist in maintaining and aggrandizing the collection for which the Society have been so wisely extending their buildings.

To maintain exotic animals gathered from every region of the earth in a fair condition of health, to keep the native of New Guinea and the native of the Arctic Circle within a few yards of each other, to compensate each for the deficiency of food and climate to which he is unavoidably subjected, is not so easy a matter as it may at the first glance appear. We rejoice, therefore, to notice that in the buildings which have of late years been erected by the Society, a singular degree of thoughtfulness has been exercised in providing against difficulties of this nature; and that, as far as we can judge, an equally singular degree of success has resulted from it. As the revenue of the Society increases in proportion to its activity and to this success, there is nothing too sanguine in the expectation that a few years of continuous progress will push its prosperity and its usefulness

to a point as considerably in advance of its present state as it now stands in relation to the past. One of the great difficulties with which the Society has had to contend—the excessive dampness of the locality—is now fortunately about to be ameliorated by the avowed intention of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests to effect the drainage of the Regent's Park; and the swampy land which bounds the gardens to the south, and which has on this account, we presume, hitherto been unoccupied for any useful purpose, will, in future years, become available for the general purposes of the establishment.

The great popular interest which is attached to the Menagerie and Gardens of the Zoological Society, has enabled them alone, among the exhibitors of London, not only to maintain, but to increase the usual number of their visitors since the opening of the all-absorbing Crystal Palace; and we believe that this fact is the best possible proof of the deep hold which the increasing taste for natural science has taken upon the educated classes of the country.

The new bath which has been opened for the Hippopotamus, in the open air, affords a perfectly new idea of his activity, from the great scope for action which its limits admit of. It is thirty-three feet square, and of considerable depth. All the inconveniences to which visitors were subjected last year from the bath being within doors, are now obviated, and the platforms afford good accommodations for about a thousand spectators at the same time.

THE HIPPOPOTAMUS.

By permission from Charles Dickens' Household Words

Before we give a more exclusive attention to the "illustrious stranger," we think it will be advisable to present the reader with a brief authentic account of the circumstances which led to the honor conferred upon England by the visit of this extraordinary personage. These circumstances are little known to the world; indeed, we have reason to believe they have never before been published.

The British Council at Cairo had frequently intimated to His

Highness the Pasha of Egypt, that a live Hippopotamus would be regarded as a very interesting and valuable present in England. Now, there were sundry difficulties of a serious nature involved in this business. In the first place, the favorite resort of the Hippopotami is a thousand or fifteen hundred miles distant from Cairo; in the second place, the Hippopotamus, being amphibious, is not easily come-at-able; when he is environed, he is a tremendous antagonist, by reason of his great strength, enormous weight, his wrathfulness when excited, and we may add, his prodigious mouth with its huge tusks. We are speaking of the *male* Hippopotamus. He is often slain by a number of rifle balls (he only makes a comic grin of scorn at a few) and laid low from a distance; but as to being taken alive, that is a triumph which has scarcely ever been permitted to mortal man of modern times. It is quite a different matter in respect to the elephant. He cannot take to the water, and neither dive clean away, nor upset your boat with the plunge of his forehead: besides which, you cannot get two tame renegade Hippopotami to assist in the capture and subjugation of a relative, as is the case with elephants. Accordingly His Highness the Pasha, not liking to compromise the dignity of despotism, and his own position as sovereign of Egypt, by promising anything which he might, perhaps, be unable to perform, turned a deaf ear to the repeated overtures of the British Consul. He never refused his request; he simply did not hear what he said, or could not be made to have a clear understanding as to what the Consul really wanted. His Highness had already given him the skin and bones of Hippopotami, and many other animals alive and dead. If he wished for any birds, he was welcome to as many as he pleased.

It so chanced, however, that Abbas Pasha took it into his head, or somebody told him, that we had in England several extraordinary breeds of dogs, horses and cows—hounds that could catch a gazelle by sheer fleetness, small fighting dogs that would master a bull—horses that could compete with the finest Arabian steeds, and beat them in a hard day's hunt over rough ground. He bethought himself, therefore, of the Hippopotamus. One good turn of this kind might deserve another of a different kind.

"So, Consul," said the Pasha, abruptly one day when Mr Murray was dining with him, "so you want a Hippopotamus?"

"Very much, your Highness."

"And you think that such an animal would be an acceptable present to your Queen and country?"

"He would be accounted a great rarity," said the Consul;

"our naturalists would receive him with open arms—figuratively speaking—and the public would crowd to pay their respects to him."

Abbas Pasha laughed at this pleasantry of the Consul.

"Well," said he, "we will inquire about this matter." He half turned his head over one shoulder to his attendants: "Send here the Governor of Nubia!" The attendants thus ordered, made their salaam and retired.

Anybody, not previously aware of the easy habits of a despotie sovereign, would naturally conclude that the Governor of Nubia was, at this time, in Cairo, and at no great distance from the royal abode. But it was not so. The Governor of Nubia was simply there—at home—smoking his pipe in Nubia. This brief and unadorned order therefore, involved a post-haste messenger on a dromedary across the Desert, with a boat up the Nile. and then more dromedaries, and then another boat, and again a dromedary, till the Pasha's mandate was delivered. We next beheld the Governor of Nubia, in full official trim, proceeding post-haste with his suit across the Desert and down the Nile traveling day and night, until finally he is announced to the Pasha, and admitted to his most serene and fumigatious presenee. The Governor makes his grand salaam.

"Governor," says the Pasha—and we have this unique dialogue on the best authority—"Governor, have you Hippopotami in your country?"

"We have, your Highness."

Abbas Pasha reflected a moment; then said—"Send to me the commander of the Nubian Army. Now, go!"

This was the whole dialogue. The Governor made his salaam, and retired. With the same haste and ceremony, so far as the two things can be combined, he returned to Nubia by boat, and drommedary, and horse, and covered litter; and the same hour found the Commander of the army of Nubia galloping across the Desert with his attendants, in obedience to the royal mandate.

The Pasha, knowing that all means of speed will be used; and what those means will be, together with the nature of the route, is able to calculate to a day when the Commander ought to arrive—and therefore *must* arrive—at his peril, otherwise. The British Consul is invited to dine with his Highness on this day.

Duly, as expected, the Commander of the Nubian army arrives, and is announced just as the repast is concluded. He is forthwith ushered into the presenee of the sublime beard and turban. Coffee and pipes are being served. The Commander

makes his grand salaam, shutting his eyes before the royal pipe.

"Commander," says the Pasha, without taking his pipe from his mouth, "I hear that you have Hippopotami in your country."

"It is true, your Highness, but ——"

"Bring me a live Hippopotamus—a young one. Now, go!"

This was actually the dialogue which took place on the occasion—and the whole of it. The Commander of the Nubian forces made his grand salaam—retired—and returned as he came—"big" with the importance of his errand—but also not without considerable anxiety for its results.

Arriving at Dongola, the Commander summoned his chief officers and captains of the Nubian hosts, to a council of war on the subject of the Hippopotamus hunt, on the result of which—he intimated—several heads were at stake, besides his own. A similar communication was speedily forwarded to the chief officer of the right wing of the army, quartered in their tents at Sennaar. The picked men of all the forces having been selected, the two parties met in boats at an appointed village on the banks of the Nile, and there concerted the measures for the expedition.

The Commander divided the chosen body into several parties, and away they sped up the Nile. They followed the course of the river, beyond the point where it branches off into the Blue Nile and the White Nile. Good fortune at length befel one of the parties; but this cost much time, and many unsuccessful efforts—now pursuing a huge savage river horse, with rifle balls and flying darts; now pursued by him in turn, with foaming jaws and knashing tusks—all of which may readily be conjectured, from the fact that they did not fall in with the prize till they had reached a distance up the White Nile of one thousand five hundred miles above Cairo. In the doublings and redoublings of attack and retreat, of pursuit and flight, and renewed assault, they must, of course, have traversed, in all, about two thousand miles.

Something pathetic attaches to the death of the mother of "our hero"—something which touches our common nature, but which such hunters as Mr. Gordon Cumming would not be at all able to understand. A large female Hippopotamus, being wounded, was in full flight up the river; but presently a ball or two reached a mortal part, and then the maternal instinct made the animal pause. She fled no more, but turned aside, and made towards a heap of brushwood and water bushes that grew on the bank of the river, in order (as the event showed) to die beside her young one. She was unable to proceed so far,

and sank dying beneath the water. The action, however, had been so evidently caused by some strong impulse and attraction in that direction, that the party instantly proceeded to the clump of water-bushes. Nobody moved—not a green flag stirred; not a sprig trembled; but directly they entered, out burst a young Hippopotamus calf, and plunged head foremost down the river banks. He had all but escaped, when, amidst the excitement and confusion of the picked men, one of them, who had “more character” than the rest, made a blow at the slippery prize with his boat hook, and literally brought him up by burying the hook in his fat black flank. Two other hunters next to him in presence of mind and energy—threw their arms around the great barrel-bellied infant, and hoisted him into the boat, which nearly capsized with the weight and struggle.

In this one circumstance of a Hippopotamus being ordered by his Highness, Abbas Pasha, has been pleasantly shown the ease and brevity with which matters are managed by a despotic government. We complain at home—and with how much reason, everybody knows too well—of the injurious and provoking slowness of all good legislative acts; but here we have a beautiful little instance, or series of little instances, of going rather too fast. Things are settled off-hand in the East by a royal mandate—from the strangling of a whole seraglio, to the sucking of a young Hippopotamus.

Returning down the Nile with their unwieldy prize, for whose wounded flank the best surgical attendance the country afforded was of course procured, it soon became a matter of immense importance and profound consultation as to how and on what the innocent young monster should be fed. He would not touch flesh of any kind; he did not seem to relish fruit; and he evidently did not, at present, understand grass. A live fish was put into his mouth, but he instantly gave a great gape, and allowed it to flap its way out again and fall into the water. Before long, however, the party reached a village. The Commander of the army saw what to do. He ordered the men to seize all the cows in the village, and milk them. This was found very acceptable to their interesting charge, who presently dispatched a quantity that alarmed them, lest they should be unable to keep up the due balance of supply and demand. The surplus milk, however, they carried away in goards and earthen vessels. But they found it would not keep; it became sour butter, and melted into oil. They were, therefore, compelled, after milking, to carry off with them one of the best cows. In this way they returned fifteen hundred miles down the Nile, stopping at every village on their way—seizing all the cows and milking

them dry. By these means they managed to supply the "table" of the illustrious captive, whose capacities in disposing of the beverage, appeared to increase daily.

The hunting division of the army, headed by the Commander-in-Chief, arrived at Cairo with their prize, on the 14th of November, 1849. The journey down the Nile, from the place where he was captured, viz., the White Nile, had occupied between five and six months. This, therefore, with a few additional days, may be regarded as the age of our Hippopotamus on reaching Cairo. The color of his skin, at that time, was for the most part of a dull, redish tone, very like that (to compare great things with small) of a naked new-born mouse. The Commander hastened to the palace to report his arrival with the prize to his royal master, into the charge of whose officers he most gladly resigned it. His Highness, having been informed of the little affair of the succession of "cows," determined to place the vivacious unweaned "infant prodigy" in the hands of the British Consul without a moment's delay.

The announcement was accordingly made with oriental formality by the chief officer of Abbas Pasha's palace, to whom the Honorable Mr. Murray made a suitable present in return for the good tidings. A lieutenant of the Nubian army, with a party of soldiers, arrived shortly after, bringing with them the animal whose renown had already filled the whole city. He excited full as much curiosity in Cairo as he has since done here, being quite as great a rarity. This will be easily intelligible when the difficulties of the capture and the immense journey are taken into consideration, with all the contingencies of men, boats, provisions, cows and other necessary expenses.

The overjoyed Counsel had already made all his preparations for receiving the illustrious stranger. He had, in the first place, secured the services of Hamet Safi Cannana, well known for his experience and skill in the care and management of animals. A commodious apartment had been fitted up in the court-yard of the Consul's house, with one door leading to a bath. As the winter would have to be passed in Cairo, proper means were employed for making this a warm or tepid bath. Here, then, our hippopotamus lived, "the observed of all observers," drinking so many gallons of milk a day (never less than twenty or thirty quarts), that he soon produced a scarcity of that article in Cairo. Nor will this be so much a matter of surprise, when it is considered that they do not understand there the excellent methods of manufacturing enough milk to answer any demand, which

obtains with us in London, where such an event as a scarcity of milk was never known by the oldest inhabitant.

Meanwhile active preparations were making for his arrival in Alexandria, to be shipped on board the Ripon steamer. The vessel was furnished with a house on the main deck, opening by steps down into a tank in the hold, containing four hundred gallons of water. It had been built and fitted up at Southampton, from a plan furnished by Mr. Mitchell, Secretary of the Zoological Gardens, in the Regent's Park, to whose energies and foresight we are indebted for the safe possession of this grotesque, good-tempered, and unique monster. The tank, by various arrangements, they contrived to fill with *fresh* water every other day. A large quantity was taken on board in casks ; a fresh supply at Malta ; and besides this, which was by no means enough, they made use of the condensed water of engines, which amounted to upwards of three hundred gallons per day. As there are some hippopotami who enjoy the sea on certain coasts of the world, it is not improbable but our friend would have soon got used to sea-water, but Mr. Mitchell was determined to run no risks, prudently considering that, in the first place, the strength of the salt water, to one whose mother had been accustomed, and her ancestors, to the mild streams of Nilus, might disagree with "young pickle ;" and secondly, if he chanced to take to it amazingly, how would he bear the change when he arrived at his mansion in the Regent's Park ? Fresh water, therefore, was provided for his bath every other day throughout the voyage.

The British Consul began to prepare for the departure of his noble guest at the end of April, and in the early part of May, the Consul took an affectionate leave of him, and would have embraced him, but that the extraordinary girth of his body rendered such a demonstration impossible.

So our hippopotamus departed from Grand Cairo in a large padded cart. He had refused a very nice horse-box which the Consul had provided for him. Some feeling about his dignity, we suppose, though Hamet Safi Cannana considered the objection arose from a certain care of his skin, which might have got a little chafe or hard rub in the horse-box. It was a lesson to Mr. Murray for life. No effort, of course, was made to compel the great personage to enter this machine, because it is one of Hamet's principles of management never to irritate an animal—always to keep him in good temper—never, directly and immediately to thwart his will in anything that is not injurious, impracticable or unreason

able. Very delightful, all this ! Who would not be a hippopotamus ? Who that was not Cæsar, would not wish to be Pompey ?

On arriving at Alexandria, full ten thousand people rushed into the streets to see our hippopotamus pass. If no one had ever seen the amphibious prodigy in Cairo, it is not to be wondered at that the mental condition of Alexandria was in the same lamentable degree of darkness.

The crowd was so great that the British Consul (whose feelings had so mastered him on taking leave of his guest that he had been obliged to follow the *cortège*), was under the necessity of applying to the Governor of Alexandria for an escort of troops. This was forthwith granted, and down they came galloping along the streets of Alexandria, with waiving scimitars ! It was well the hippopotamus did not see them from his padded cart where he lay asleep—it might have caused a little misunderstanding.

Order being restored and a great lane made in the crowd, Hamet Safi Cannana commenced the gradual and delicate process of awaking the great personage. In the course of an hour or so, during which time the escort of soldiers all “stood attention,” the excited feelings of the anxious lane of the population were gratified by the sight of the Arab ceremoniously advancing in gentleman-usher fashion, while close behind him slowly lounged the hippopotamus.

He embarked on board the Ripon, where he was soon joined by his Excellency General Jung Bahadoor Ranajee, and the Nepaulese princess, his brothers. These latter personages would have been great objects of attraction under any other circumstances ; but what could stand against such a rival as the occupant of the great house and bath on the main deck ?

During the voyage, “our fat friend” attached himself yet more strongly to his attendant and interpreter, Hamet ; indeed, the devotion to his person which this assiduous and thoughtful person manifested from his first promotion to the office, had been of a kind to secure such a result from any one at all accessible to kindly affections. Hamet had commenced by sleeping side by side with his charge in the house at Cairo, and adopted the same arrangement for the night during the first week of the voyage to England. Finding, however, as the weather grew warmer, that the hippopotamus bigger and bigger, and this was attended with some inconvenience, Hamet had a hammock slung from the beams immediately over the place where he used to sleep—in fact,

just over his side of the bed—by which means he was raised two or three feet above his usual position. Into this hammock got Hamet, and having assured the hippopotamus, both by his voice and by extending one arm over the side so as to touch him, that he was there as usual at his side, and “all was right,” he presently fell asleep. How long he slept Hamet does not know, but he was awake by the sensation of a jerk and a hoist, and found himself lying on the bed in his old place, close beside our fat friend. Hamet tried the experiment once more, but the same thing again occurred. No sooner was he asleep than the hippopotamus got up—raised his broad nose beneath the heaviest part of the hammock that swung lowest, and by an easy and adroit toss, pitched Hamet clean out. After this, Hamet, acting on his rule of never thwarting his charge in anything reasonable, abandoned the attempt of a separate bed, and took up his nightly quarters by his side as before.

As for the voyage, it was passed pleasantly enough by the most important of the illustrious strangers on board. His Excellency, the Nepaulese Ambassador, together with the prince, his brother, were uncommonly sea-sick ; but as for our fat friend, he enjoyed himself all the way. He liked his bath, for which there was no lack of fresh water supplies, and his provisions were equally satisfactory. Two cows and ten goats had been taken on board for his sole use and service; these, however, not being found sufficient for a “growing youth,” the ship’s cow was confiscated for the use of the table; and this addition, together with we forget how many dozen sacks of Indian corn meal, enabled him to reach our shores in excellent health and spirits.

A word as to the title of “river horse,” when taken in conjunction with his personal appearance, his habits, and his diet. The Hippopotamus has nothing in common with the horse; he seems to us rather an aquatic pig, or a four-footed land porpoise. In fact, he appears to partake of the wild boar, the bull and the porpoise—the latter predominating at present, but when he gets his tusks, we much fear there will be an alteration in his manners for the worse. As to his eventual size, the prospect is alarming. He is at present only seven months old, and he will continue growing till he is fifteen years of age. What news for the London cows !

Arrived at Southampton, our Hippopotamus, house and all, with Hamet Safi Cannana at his side, was hoisted up at the vessel’s yard-arm, and gradually lowered upon a great iron truck, which was then wheeled off to the railway sta-

tion. The whole concern was deposited in the special carriage of a special train, and on this he traveled from Southampton to London. He arrived at the Zoological Gardens in the Regent's Park, at ten o'clock at night, and found Lord Brougham, Professor Owen, Thomas Bell, and Mr. Mitchell, all waiting (we believe they were not in court dresses) to receive him. They were presently joined by the learned editor of the "Annals of Natural History," the learned editor of the "Zoologist," in company with Mr. Van Voorst, and several artists who made sketches by the light of a lanthorn. Doyle, Wolff, Harrison Weir, Foster (for the "Illustrated London News"), and others, were all in assiduous attendance, watchful of every varying outline. The illustrious stranger descended from his carriage and entered the Gardens. First went the lanthorn; then Hamet Safi Cannana, with a bag of dates slung over his shoulder; and after him slowly lounged our uncouth treasure, with a prodigy of a grin such as he alone can give, expressive of his humorous sense of all the honors and luxuries that awaited him.

We understand it is a cabinet secret, that the Pasha has ordered a fresh party of hunting soldiers to proceed up the river, as far as the White Nile, to search for another young Hippopotamus—a female! We may, therefore, look forward to the unrivalled fame of possessing a royal pair—"sure *such* a pair" as were never yet seen in any collection of Natural History—to say nothing of the chance of a progeny. These are national questions—why should they be cabinet secrets.

Since the imperial exhibitions in the Circus, at Rome, no living Hippopotamus has been imported into Europe, except the young male which the Zoological Society possesses.* The difficulty of obtaining such an animal may be conjectured from the fact, that after the Viceroy of Egypt had determined to present one to the Society, it became necessary for his Highness to dispatch an expedition to the Upper Nile, for the purpose of making the capture, and that success was only achieved after two thousand miles of the river had been ascended. In the month of July, 1849, the chief huntsman of the party, in searching the reedy margin of an island in the White Nile, called Obayseh, at last discovered a little Hippopotamus calf, which, as he conjectured, had then been born about two days. It was so small that, in his delight at hav-

* ~~Since~~ this was written, a splendid female Hippopotamus has been added to the magnificent collection of the Zoological Society.

ing accomplished the Pasha's order, he siezed it in his arms, and would have carried it to the boat which waited on him, had not the slimy exhudation which is lavishly poured forth from innumerable pores in the skin of the young Hippopotamus, rendered it so slippery that he was entirely unable to retain his hold. The animal having thus slipped from his grasp, all but escaped into the Nile, where the mother doubtless was lying near at hand. The hunter however, with the presence of mind which characterizes a good sportsman, seized a spear, and, with the sharp side-hook, which has been in fashion in Egypt for three thousand years or more, he succeeded in arresting the headlong plunge of his prize, without inflicting greater injury upon him than a skin-wound, which is marked by the scar upon his ribs to this day.

The long voyage down the river was successfully accomplished in a boat which had been built for the purpose by the Viceroy's order, and "Obaysch," as they named the Hippopotamus from his birth-place, was safely delivered, in November, 1849, after a journey of four months, into the care of the Hon. C. A. Murray, through whose powerful influence the Viceroy had been prevailed on to exert his power and assist the Society in an object for which all exertions of their own had failed.

Obaysch spent his first winter in Cairo, under the charge of his present intelligent keeper, Hamet Safi Cannana, a Nubian Arab, whom Mr. Murray engaged for the purpose. In May, 1850, proper preparations were made, with the obliging co-operation of the directors, in the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's ship Ripon, for the transportation from Alexandria, and on the 25th of that month, the first hippopotamus which had breathed on English soil since the Deluge, was landed successfully on the quay at Southampton, and liberated in the Gardens, from his traveling house, at 10 o'clock the same evening. On emerging from the door of it, he followed Hamet, who had scarcely ever left him during the whole voyage from Cairo, into the building which had been prepared for him, and instantly indulged in a long continued bath. The 10 hours which elapsed between his removal from the steamer, at Southampton, and his arrival in the Regent's park, is the longest period during which he has ever been without access to water.

The slow respiration of the hippopotamus enables him to remain for long intervals beneath the surface, and the organization both of the ears and nostrils are beautifully adapted for this condition of his existence. The enormous size to

which these animals grow, has been recorded by every African traveler, and is sufficiently indicated by the skulls which are found in almost every Museum. An adult male in good condition, measuring five feet at the shoulders, would certainly have three times the present bulk of Obaysch, who has most probably grown quite as fast under the treatment he has experienced, as he would have done in his native river.

The principal food of the hippopotamus in his natural state appears to be young grass, green corn, when it is to be obtained, browse of shrubs, and probably some of the great water plants which abound in the African waters.

Obaysch consumes about one hundred pounds weight daily, of hay, chaff, corn, roots, and green food. For the first year he has fed almost entirely on cow's milk and Indian corn meal finely ground; and there is no doubt whatever, that any of the great animals, technically called Pachyderms, such as the Elephants and Rhinoceros, might be reared by residents in Africa with perfect success, in the same manner. The African Elephant and the African Rhinoceros are still wanted for the Society's collection.

The Hippopotamus now only exists in Africa; it is found in the rivers of the South and West, as well as in the Nile; and there is also in some of the Western rivers a pigmy species, of whose skull a cast was presented to the Society by the late Dr. Morton, of the United States.

ADVENTURES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE invention of firearms has made man lord of the animal creation. Lions, bears, and tigers fall before him, even when he raises his gun and takes his deadly aim; and even the Hippopotamus—the ancient behemoth of Scripture—has become the sport of our modern Nimrods. Its name, as derived from the Greek, signifies *The River Horse*. Modern writers, perhaps with more propriety, call the male animal “The Sea Bull, and the female, “The Sea Cow.” These animals, as most of our readers know, are amphibious—that is, able to live both in air and water. They are denizens both of the land and the lake, the rock and the river.

Gordon Cumming who spent five years in the far interior of Southern Africa, and slew wild animals of almost every description with as much

rest and skill as our sportsmen do game at home, gives the following account of his adventures one day among a school of the Hippopotamus tribe:

"The next day I rode down the river's bank, with two after-riders, to seek for Hippopotami, which the natives reported would be found in a pool in advance, where another river joined the Limpopo. After riding a short distance, I found the bank unusually green and shady, and in a broad, deep and long, still bend of the stream, the game I sought.

"They were lying in their sandy beds among the rank reeds at the river side, and on hearing me galloping over the gravelly shingle, the deposit of some great food, they plunged into their native stronghold in dire alarm, and commenced blowing, snorting, and uttering a sound very similar to that made by the musical instrument called a serpent. It was a fairish place for an attack, so divesting myself of my leather trousers, I ordered my after-riders to remain silent, and then crept cautiously forward, determined not to fire a shot until I had thoroughly examined the herd, to see if there was not a bull, and at all events, to secure, if possible, the very finest head amongst them.

"The troop consisted of about fourteen Hippopotami, ten of them being a little further down the stream than the other four. Having carefully examined these ten, I made out two decidedly larger than the others. I then crept a little distance up the river behind the reeds, to obtain a view of the four, and saw that they were two enormous old cows with two large calves beside them. The old ones had exactly the same size of heads as the two best cows below. I accordingly chose what I thought the best of these two, and making a fine shot at the side of her head, at once disabled her. She disappeared for a few seconds, and then came floundering to the surface, swimming round and round, diving and reappearing with a loud splash and a blowing noise, and getting slowly down the river until I re-attacked and finished her, about an hour after, a quarter of a mile farther down. The other sea cows were now greatly alarmed, showing, and that only occasionally, but a small part of their heads. I managed, however, to select one of the three remaining ones, and making a perfect shot, sent a bullet crashing into her brain; this caused instantaneous death, and she sank to the bottom. I then wounded two more sea cows in the head, both of which I lost; the others were so alarmed and cunning, that it was impossible to do anything with them.

"The one I had first shot was now resting with half her body above water, on a sandbank in the Limpopo, at the mouth of the river Lepalala, which was broad, clear and rapid, and from this position I started her with one bullet in the shoulder, and another in the side of the head. This last shot set her in motion, when she commenced struggling in the water in the most extraordinary manner, disappearing for a few seconds and then coming up like a great whale, setting the whole river in a vortex. Presently she took away down the stream, but returning, I killed her with a shot in the middle of the forehead. This proved a most magnificent specimen of the female Hippopotamus. She far surpassed the brightest conceptions I had formed of her, being a larger, more lively, and in every way a more wonderful and interesting animal than certain writers had led me to expect. On securing this fine sea cow, I immediately cut off her head, and placed it high and dry, and this was a work of considerable difficulty for four men. We left the body in the water, being, of course, unable to do anything with it there, and it was well I secured the head when I did, for next morning the crocodiles had dragged away the carcase.

"The body of the other huge sea cow, which I had shot, now floated and became stationary within about twenty yards of the opposite bank of the river. I accordingly held down the river to the tail of the pool, where the stream was broad and rapid, and less likely to hold crocodiles, and, although cold and worn out with fatigue, swam across to secure my game. Two of my Hottentots swam over to my assistance; but just as we were going to lay hold of the animal, she became disengaged from the invisible fetters that had held her, a gigantic old tree that some flood had lodged in the bottom of the pool, and floated down the middle of the river; when she neared the tail of the pool we swam in, and inclining her course to shore, stranded her on a fine gravel bank.

"This truly magnificent specimen was about the same size as the first, and apparently older, but her teeth were not quite so thick. Ordering the natives at once to cut off her huge head, and having seen it safely deposited on the bank, along with that of her comrade, I held for my wagons, having to cross the Lapalala to reach them. I was very much knocked up but most highly gratified at my good fortune in first killing, and then securing two of the four best sea cows in a herd of fourteen."

